THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) The details regarding DoT and DTS are given in the statement (*see* below). The details regarding DoP are being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

NOTE: DoT (Department of Telecommunications)
DTS (Department of Telecom Services)
DoP (Department of Posts)

STATEMENT

There is no such circle in DoT and DTS where not even a single Devnagari Typewriter is available. Hence Part (b) of the Question does not arise in view of this.

Efforts are being made by the Department to achieve the targets fixed by the Deptt. of O.L. in the Annual programme regarding purchase of Hindi Typewriters. Devnagari Typewriters are available in all circles. Hindi Software have been loaded is being loaded, wherever Computers are available.

STD facility in Almora

5359. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to Unstarred Question 3340 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th May, 1997 and state:

(a) the latest position with regard to telepohone facility in the Taya, Seem and Kotagiwai in District Almora; and

(b) by when STD facility will be provided to Basot and Bhataraujkhan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) No telecom facility is available at present in the villages *i.e.* Taya, Seem and Kotagiwai. VPTs at these locations are proposed to be installed during 2000-2001.

(b) The STD facility has been provided to Bhatarujkhan in the second week of February, 2000. The proposal has been made to provide STD facility at basot during 2000-2001 by Satellite based VPT.

New telecom facility for delivery of Money Orders

5360. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any way in which the cost of money orders could be brought down by the post office;

(b) to what extent the high cost of money orders is incompatible with the technical developments;

(c) whether the post office could use latest telecom facilities to make delivery of money orders as cheap and efficient service;

(d) whether any study has been done of the potential of this service by the post office; and

(e) if so, the details of steps proposed to better use the post office network to ensure that delivery of money orders becomes a valued service of the post office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) Details are given in the enclosed statement.

STATEMENT

An Expert Committee on Excellence in postal service was set up in September 1988 who in their final report in September, 89 suggested adaption of various technologies to the needs of the Posts including the use of Very Small Aperture Terminals. This recommendation of the Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal Service was accepted by the Government and during phase I of the project a network of 77 VSATs, including two for use of Armed Forces, was set up during the 8th Five Year Plan. During the 9th Five Year Plan, second phase of the project has been started which involves setting up of 150 high speed VSATs 62 of which are in the process of being installed and another 88 are likely to be installed by 31st March, 2001.

1.1 At present 10.5 lakh money orders are being transmitted every month on the existing VAST network. When Phase II is completed the entire money order traffic could be transmitted through the VAST network. The everage cost of transmitting a money order manually comes to Rs. 28.71. The cost has been calculated with reference to the figures for 1998-99.

1.2 The total cost of sending a money order through the VAST network is Rs. 15.75. It is felt that when the entire traffic is put on the VAST network the cost per money order would further come down.

1.3 A new product known as Corporate money order was started during the 8th Five Year Plan in which an amount of upto rupees one crore can be

transmitted through the VAST network between the stations connected to the network. It is pertinent to mention here that the Department has not increased the commission on money orders despite induction of high end technologies, the main reason being that the Department has been trying to modernise the service and reduce the cost of transmission.

Implementation of Internet Service providers policy

5361. SHRI R. S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received the committee report on resolution of subsisting problems in the telecom sector, implementation of ISP Policy and development of e-commerce;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Committee has restrained the internet service providers from buying bandwidth directly from FLAG;

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(e) the total bandwidth capacity available with VSNL; and

(f) the demand from private ISPs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) The Government has received and accepted the First Interim Report of the Sub-group, regarding the extension of January 31, 2000 deadline for making payments of the balance amount of 65% of the licence fee under the migration package to March 15, 2000. This decision has been implemented.

The Second and third Interim Report of the Sub-group has been submitted to the Group on Telecom and II convergence. The Group is yet to give its recommendations on this report to the Government.

(c) and (d) Internet Service Providers (ISPs) have represented to the Sub-group that they should be allowed to have direct access to FLAG submarine cable. The issue is governed by a commercial arrangement between VSNL and FLAG. A view will be teken on the basis of the recommendation of the Group.

(e) Total bandwidth capacity available with VSNL is 303.128 MB.

(f) Total demand of bandwidth capacity given to VSNL by private ISPs is 147.152 MB.